

## Daughter Of Oak Cliff Woman Joins In Final Salute To Submarine Tender

It has been said that all good things must come to an end, even valiant military careers.

Since being commissioned in 1964, the submarine tender USS Simon Lake had served nearly 35 years, but earlier this summer the ship's career of service came to an end. The tender named for the submarine inventor was decommissioned.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Brenda K. Urbina, daughter of Margarita Urbina of Oak Cliff, was one of the crewmembers on hand at the recent ceremony rendering a final salute to the ship.

Urbina started her naval career in 1995, after her graduation from Sunset High School.

"I joined the Navy for the opportunity to travel, to earn money for further schooling and to prepare myself for a lifetime career," said the 21-year-old sailor.

There were many things that influenced Urbina's decision to enlist in the Navy.

"My years in JROTC in high school influenced my decision to join the military. The Navy's job training in the communications field also persuaded me to join the Navy," she said.

During its tenure, the 21,000-ton Simon Lake provided all aspects of logistical



**BRENDA K URBINA**

and repair support for an average of 45 submarines and surface ships, consisting of more than 5,000 repair jobs annually.

The tender served on station not only in the United States, but also at times out of ports in Holy Loch, Scotland, and La Maddalena, Sardinia. Simon Lake's service in critical times has included such recent events as Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf.

During the ship's most recent tour in Sardinia up until its decommissioning, Urbina served as a interior communications electrician aboard the historic vessel. As such, she was responsible for the repair and upkeep of a variety of communication systems.

"I repair all kinds of equipment that is used for

communications," she said. "On a ship that can mean anything from a simple phone to alarms or navigational equipment."

Urbina noted that enlisting has been more than just an opportunity to serve her country, but a learning experience as well.

"I've learned to work better with other people and to cope with long work hours and adverse working conditions," she said. "You have to take the good with the bad and try to balance them out."

And she said that since she chose to enlist, she's had many exciting experiences along the way.

"Traveling overseas has been the best experience, being able to experience other cultures," she said. "My favorite ports have been United Arab Emirates and several ports out of Italy. Italy has the most beautiful architecture I've ever seen."

Which is perhaps why Urbina is excited about her future prospects. "I plan on making a career out of the Navy and earning my college degree before I retire," she said.

Urbina's career will continue past Simon Lake, as she transfers to the USS Carl Vinson. But she knows that she takes with her the legacy of having been part of the history of the Simon Lake.

## Local sailor serving on USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier

By Jesse A. Gibson

NORFOLK, VA - Aboard USS Harry S. Truman, named for the country's 33 president, the Navy's newest aircraft carrier has the distinction of being one of the nation's most flexible tools of diplomacy. If ever needed during periods of unrest, the mighty ship can help restore peace while living up to its motto "The buck stops here."

One Sailor helping the ship carry out this mission is Duane G. Winter, the son of Daniel J. and Martha A. Winter of Elizabethville, 17023. Winter serves aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, home ported in Norfolk, Va., and keeping this national asset functioning safely is part of his job.

A newly selected chief petty officer, Winter is an aviation electronics technician and is responsible for the ship's many electronics devices.

"I am the supervisor of 23 personnel in the ship's calibration laboratory. We are responsible for the calibration of about 12,000 items on board ranging from gauges and torque wrenches to electronic equipment and test benches. My particular position deals more with the management of personnel and inventories, however I do occasionally work on equipment. I think the best and most rewarding part of my job is two fold. First, I truly enjoy watching and helping a young person grow into a professional Sailor and technician and the fact that due to the nature of my job, I get to interface with the entire ship."

The mission of Winter's ship is to conduct sustained combat air operations from the sea. Aircraft carriers have the unique ability to tailor a response for any crisis - everything from a full air strike, to evacuation of American citizens in a natural disaster, to search and rescue operations. They're forward deployed and ready on arrival.

A 1983 graduate of Upper Dauphin High School, Winter said he joined the Navy the same year



**CPO Duane G. Winter**

for patriotic reasons.

"I grew-up in a very pro-military environment even though my father never served on active duty. I always viewed military people as those who were respected and held in high esteem. As for choosing the Navy, I guess it was because they offered the best deal at the time. They guaranteed me advanced electronics school and advancement to third class petty officer upon graduation. So, that played heavily in my decision. Plus I've always been interested in planes and ships as I was growing up."

Married to the former Dane R. Pinner for 12 years with a son, Justin, 11, Winter is optimistic about his future.

"I plan to stay in the Navy until it is time to retire. Right now I don't know how long that will be. After retirement, if my family and I move anywhere, it would be to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and open up some type of fishing/boating related business."

But for the time being, Winter knows he's contributing to the strength of a nation by his serve aboard a city at sea.

*(Editor's Note: Jesse A. Gibson is a staff writer assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Center in Norfolk, VA.)*